

*As a small business owner in Washington State, I oppose WC 07-97. As a small business, we have little telephone purchasing power and thus we are unable to negotiate pricing for local telephone service. We must pay what local telephone providers charge AND, if they don't want to serve us, we have fewer or no choice of competitive providers. In 2003, the State of Washington granted Qwest a "competitive" classification so they were no longer under "rate of return" regulation because the Commission concluded there appeared to be sufficient competition and that competition included numerous local telephone service providers who are resellers of Qwest's network. We strongly urge you to oppose WC 07-97 until there are truly several local telephone service options available that have their own network independent of the incumbent local telephone provider Qwest.*